

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 84 – 90, 92 – 93, 96 – 100, 102, and 128 – 130 have been allowed. Claims 43 – 55, 57 – 59, 60, 61, and 125 – 127 have been rejected. In response, Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 84 – 90, 92 – 93, 96 – 100, 102, and 128 – 130. Regarding the rejections of claims 43 – 54, 57 – 61, and 125 – 127, the Applicants respectfully disagree, however, to expedite prosecution Applicants have amended independent claim 43 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 84, thus obviating the rejections. However, Applicants hereby reserve the rights to pursue the unamended claims in a continuation. Claims 43, 85-86, 90, 93, and 128 have been amended. Claim 61 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection of claim 61 moot. Claims 43 - 55, 57 - 60, 84 - 90, 92, 93, 96 - 100, 102 and 125 - 130 thus remain pending in the application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 84 stating that lines 17-18 refer to “the combiner modules,” which correspond to the combiner means. Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to object to claim 128, which refer to the “combiner modules,” while only “combiner means,” are previously recited in the claim. Accordingly, as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended the claim to recite “from combiner modules of the combiner means.” Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

As noted above, the Examiner allowed claims 84 – 90, 92 – 93, 96 – 100, 102 and 128 – 130. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 43 – 55, 57 – 61 and 125 - 127 were rejected over different combinations of U.S. Patent No. 6,889,385 to Rakib et al. (“Rakib”), U.S. Patent No. 7,200,855 to Laksono (“Laksono”), and U.S. Patent No. 6,263,503 to Margulis (“Margulis”). In particular, claims 43 – 45, 49 – 55, 57 – 60, 61, and 125 – 127 were rejected over Rakib in view of Laksono.

Claims 46 – 49 were rejected over Rakib in view of Laksono in further view of Margulis. Claim 61 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

Regarding claims 43 – 55, 57 – 60 and 125 - 127, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 43 – 55, 57 – 60 and 125 - 127 are patentable over the references without having to amend claim 43 to include allowable subject matter. However, as noted above, in order to advance prosecution, claim 43 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 84. Because the allowable limitations of claim 84 have been incorporated into independent claim 16, the rejection is obviated. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 43 is therefore allowable. Claims 44 - 55, 57-60, and 125 – 127 depend directly or indirectly from claim 43 and should be allowable as well. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 43 – 55, 57 – 60 and 125 - 127 and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicants submit that claims 43 – 55, 57 – 60 and 125 - 127, as well as allowed claims 84 – 90, 92 – 93, 96 – 100, 102 and 128 – 130, are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1542. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
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